



### EDITORIAL NOTE

As we prepare for EFCA's 30th Anniversary celebrations on 16 November, we are finalising our policy paper "Delivering a resilient, green and digital built environment: Manifesto from European Engineering Consultancies for 2030 and beyond".

In this document, we explain how consulting engineers are supporting the EU policy agenda in a number of areas and we make some recommendations for improving the existing regulatory framework for the built environment.

Sue Arundale

## efca newsroom

**22/09/2022** - **Internal Market** Committee: the meeting touches on the relationship with the FIDIC Task Group 17 'Collaborative Contracting - new relational contract model(s) to enhance collaborative contracting', the CACE study on the use of Dispute Board for adjudication and/or avoidance of disputes in building works and [Level\(s\)](#), a voluntary assessment and reporting tool for sustainability performance of buildings, based on circularity, that DG Environment developed.

**28/09/2022** - 'Engineering the New European Bauhaus: Reframing the Bauhaus framework from theory to practice': online event, organised by the European Council of Civil Engineers ([ECCE](#)) addresses how the principles of the New European Bauhaus – an enriching, sustainable, and inclusive built environment – can be put into practice. Points of discussion are a stronger mobilisation and stakeholder-engagement of engineers, and the upskilling of engineers in order to efficiently use digital solutions.

**29/09/2022** - 'Making Sustainable Architecture Work': policy debate, organised by the Architects' Council of Europe ([ACE](#)) focusses on how current EU legislative instruments work together to increase the sustainability of our built environment, taking the whole life-cycle into account. The discussion also addressed some existing difficulties for implementing sustainable architecture – a lack of harmonisation across the EU, procurement processes, skills shortages.

**30/09/2022** - European Business Services Alliance ([EBSA](#)): Daniela Santopolo (DG GROW) presents an overview of the skills shortages challenges, the EU Pact for Skills and the transition pathways. The importance of establishing skills partnerships,

mobilising and using funding at European, national and local level are emphasised, as well as the need to accompany the digital and green transitions with appropriate skills and industrial policies.

**30/09/2022** - EFCA submits a nomination to DG CONNECT for a representative to sit on the Expert Group on B2B data sharing and cloud computing contracts, in particular the sub-group cloud computing contracts', which will develop voluntary standard contractual clauses

**04/10/2022** - **Future Trends** Committee: preparation of the social media campaign to promote the 2022 report. Presentation of ideas for next year's Future Trend Report and planned research design of the 2023 Playbook.

Presentation by guest speaker Witold Rządowski on 3D Printing with a focus on FDM (Fused Deposition Modelling) technology for concrete printing.

**11/10/2022** - **FIDIC-EFCA Webinar**: Boosting Project Preparation of Quality Infrastructure with MDBs

**11/10/2022** - Launch of the 2022 EFCA Future Trends **report** 'Seizing opportunities in times of disruption'. See also: **article** in Construction Europe

**12/10/2022** - **ECCREDI** (European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation) meeting. As well as usual business, tributes were paid to Jan van der Putten, EFCA's outgoing Secretary General.

**18/10/2022** - **Construction 2050 Alliance** Event on Taxonomy, with speakers from the Platform for Sustainable Finance. Call for Platform 2.0 discussed briefly. Position paper on Taxonomy launched by the Alliance.

**19/10/2022** - European Services Forum (**ESF**): Policy Committee meeting addresses developments in EU trade policies. Points of discussion are the ongoing EU trade negotiations with India, Indonesia, Japan, and Australia, the ESF's new budget and the ESF's opinion on the EU Anti-Coercion Instrument.

**19/10/2022** - **High Level Construction Forum** webinar on innovation in construction – New ways of building. Presentations on 3D printing, robotics and prefabrication.

**20/10/2022** - **High Level Construction Forum** webinar on innovation in construction – New ways of collecting and using data. The webinar discusses the deployment and use of digital building permits and logbooks, as well as the use of earth observation to improve the design and outcome of construction projects.



## SAVE THE DATES

Brussels, 28/10/2022: EU Sustainable Investment [Summit](#)

Brussels, 16/11/2022: **EFCA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event**

Brussels, 30/11-1/12/2022: Annual **POLIS Conference**

Full [Calendar](#) of EFCA meetings



Overview & timeline 'EU response to Russia'

DG NEAR 'Stand with Ukraine'

28/09/2022: [MSCA4Ukraine](#) - call for applications to support displaced researchers from Ukraine  
MSCA4Ukraine

04/10/2022: [IFC](#) and EU to provide €25 million in grants to help Ukrainian cities offer quality housing to internally displaced people

10/10/2022: launch of the online [platform](#) to facilitate the access to the labour market easier to Ukrainian refugees

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27/09/2022: first meeting of the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on scaling up **sustainable finance in low and middle-income countries**

28/09/2022: new **EBRD** (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) - EU Financial Framework Partnership Agreement to boost investment in sustainable infrastructure and private sector development and advance **Global Gateway** in the partner countries

03/10/2022: **EBRD** is starting work on a **new energy sector strategy** and inviting the public to contribute

04/10/2022: Council adopts EU law on **adequate minimum wages**. The directive will enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication in the official journal. Member states have two years to transpose the directive into national law

04/10/2022: EU finance ministers reach a deal to raise €20 billion from the bloc's carbon market to support the **transition away from Russian energy**

04/10/2022: Council approves **Digital Services Act (DSA)**. The DSA protects the digital space against the spread of illegal content and ensures the protection of users' fundamental rights

10/10/2022: Adam Bielan, the rapporteur for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European Parliament on the EU's **Data Act**, proposes removal of functional equivalence for cloud switching obligations

12/10/2022: EC call for applications for members for the new mandate of the **Platform on Sustainable Finance**. The current mandate of the Platform ends in October 2022. The next Platform's mandate will run from Q1 2023 to Q4 2024.

12/10/2022: 2022 **Enlargement Package**

12/10/2022: Council and European Parliament agree on adapting EU **standardisation** rules

12/10/2022: publication of the Digital Services Act in the EC [Official Journal](#)

18/10/2022: EC [2023 work programme](#)

18/10/2022: Digitalising the energy system: EU [Action Plan](#)

## reports room

**EC:** [website](#) to support actions for the Digitalisation of Construction SMEs. It offers a digital maturity scan, an interactive handbook, trainings and a collection of best practices

**EC:** 2022 State of the [Energy Union report](#)

**European Environment Agency:** Rethinking [Agriculture](#) – briefings on agriculture and food systems

**European Environment Agency:** '[Urban sustainability](#) in Europe — Post-pandemic drivers of environmental transitions.'

**EC:** [SOLVIT](#)'s Helping Hand in the Single Market: celebrating 20 years

**Eurostat** regional [yearbook](#) — 2022 edition

**European Court of Auditors** [report](#): the number of irregularities in spending from the EU budget increased in 2021, while budgetary risks might increase due to the war in Ukraine.

**EBRD:** Regional Economic Prospects (REP) [report](#)

2021 Joint [Report](#) on **Multilateral Development Banks'** Climate Finance

**Construction Europe's** annual ranking of Europe's 100 largest construction firms

**Vodafone:** '[Fit for the Future' Cities](#). How technology can accelerate sustainable change

**CDP** [report](#): Protecting People and the Planet. Putting people at the heart of climate action

**Ramboll, Henning Larsen** and Danish think-tank '**The Happiness Research Institute**': Happy Home [report](#)

**World Weather Attribution:** High temperatures exacerbated by climate change made 2022 Northern Hemisphere soil moisture [droughts](#) more likely

**International Telecommunication Union:** Global Connectivity [Report 2022](#)



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